



1 July 1977

72-5053

Mr. E. Henry Knoche  
Deputy Director  
Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Hank,

Thank you for your gracious note. We both share the conviction that a competent intelligence apparatus is as important to our country now as it has ever been in the past. Although now seems to be a time to argue about organization, in the final analysis the issue rides on the competence of the professionals in the business. Your appointment has been viewed by all as a recognition of that fact and your performance has convinced all that true professional competence in the leaders of intelligence is a quality of great importance. As long as there is shared a common sense of purpose to serve the nation with the best intelligence and there is also the camaraderie of true professionals then I believe the institutions will perform well individually and collectively. I am very pleased that we could work together in making some progress and I have confidence in the future.

My very best wishes to you personally and to CIA.

Sincerely,

LEW ALLEN, JR.  
Lieutenant General, USAF  
Director, NSA/Chief, CSS

NSA